

Pastoral Care and Wellbeing Policy

Policy Category:	1. Student Learning and Welfare	Policy No.	# 1.25
Related Policies and Documents:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lutheran Education Australia's Lifelong Qualities for Learners 		
Approved By:	School Council	Date Approved:	19th March 2024
Version Control:	Version # 1.0 (March 2024)		
Review Period/Cycle:	Annual	Next Review Date:	March 2025

GUIDING SCRIPTURE

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. (Colossians 3:23-24).

PURPOSE

Pastoral Care is the demonstration of Christian love to one another in practical ways.

At St John's we believe that each one of us is a unique and precious creation of God. God is interested in our total wellbeing (emotional, mental, physical and spiritual), and as a Christian School our focus is to provide pastoral care to all involved within our school community. As Christians we believe that God comes to us in worship and empowers us to live our lives in ways that are pleasing to Him. Therefore, we are intentional in participating in relevant daily devotional and worship times with our community.

SCOPE

This policy extends to all staff within the school community working with our students.

POLICY STATEMENT

St John's Lutheran School community is committed to providing quality education which endeavours to prepare children for the future, in a caring, supporting Christian environment. We value Faith, Friendship and Family while focussing on Relationships, Responsibility and Results.

Our aim is that all members of our school community receive and demonstrate respect and care for each other in accordance with the beliefs and values we hold as a Christian community. These values incorporate the Lutheran Education Australia 'Lifelong Qualities for Learners'.

PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES

Wellbeing impacts every member of the school community and is an essential component of the Pastoral Care Framework. At St John's, we aim to develop the whole child to be the best that they can be - spiritually, emotionally, socially, academically and physically. It is widely understood that when wellbeing of each student is prioritised, learning outcomes can be improved.

There are many facets to an effective Pastoral Care and Wellbeing Program and initiatives to support community member's wellbeing should be incorporated wherever possible.

Pastoral Care and Wellbeing Support for Students

It is our endeavour to provide an environment where children are nurtured and valued and encouraged to reach their potential.

Support for students will be provided by:

- Class buddy system
- Key staff members available to listen to student concerns
- Links with youth groups
- Relationship Management Policy
- Restorative practices
- Drug and alcohol education
- Anti-bullying programs and intervention
- Learning support program
- Positive role modelling by staff
- Referrals to external agencies as required or requested
- Critical incident management
- Devotional and Pastoral Care participation
- Lunch-time extra-curricular activities
- Wellbeing and Health lessons
- Camping program
- Values program such as 7 C's
- Access to Counselling services
- Wellbeing team support
- Programs such as 'Play is the Way'
- Relationship Education in Wellbeing classes
- Proactive small group sessions offered to target social needs.

Pastoral Care and Wellbeing Support for Families

Pastoral Care for families recognises the need to support parents. Parents can be assisted by:

- Wellbeing team member who liaises with families in times of need and may include provision of meals or household support
- Organised informal activities for families
- P&F meetings and events
- Restorative practices
- Making referrals to outside agencies for support
- Critical incident management

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- Parent Engagements Programs or activities.

Pastoral Care and Wellbeing Support for School Staff

A vital aspect of working as a team is caring for each other. Pastoral care of and between staff members is necessary to support and encourage all members of staff in their particular roles within our school community. Staff can be supported by:

- Colleague mentoring
- Shared devotional, bible study and prayer times
- Incidental and formal sharing and meeting times
- Restorative practices
- Opportunities to meet with parish pastor
- Social events
- Debriefing opportunities after major events
- Critical incident management
- Employee Assistance Program access.

Pastoral Care and Wellbeing Support for School Council Members

The dedicated individuals who volunteer their time to sit on the School Council also need to be supported with pastoral care as they lead our school. Pastoral care is given by:

- Combined staff and Council social events
- Devotional and sharing times at Council meetings
- Support from local church congregation
- Employee Assistance Program access.

<p>Communication of this Policy</p>	<p>The St John's Lutheran School <i>Pastoral Care and Wellbeing Policy</i> is available for staff to access on the school intranet and for parents, friends and community members on the school website.</p>
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